ABSTRACT

A kneeling pad assembly having an articulated supporting spine assembly with an upper spine member carrying a protected cushioned kneecup and a lower spine member carrying a shin engaging cushion. The pad assembly is supported on the leg of a user only by a pair of leg straps extending from the lower spine member behind the user's leg below the knee. The upper spine member is cantilevered above the lower spine and is constructed to be pivotally moveable with a snap action between two stable positions. The first stable position is with the upper spine collinear with the lower spine to hold the cushioned kneecup against the user's knee. The second stable position is with the upper spine member angled away from the user's leg at an acute angle to the lower spine member to hold the kneecap out of contact with the user's knee to avoid discomfort and displacement of the kneeling pad assembly during standing or walking. The kneecap can be manually moved in either direction between its stable positions or it can be moved from its second stable position to its first stable position by kneeling whereby the kneeling surface pushes the kneecap toward the knee. A protective cover on the kneecap extending in front of and above the knee when kneeling is engaged by the upper leg of the user when moving from a kneeling position to a standing position to effect snap acting movement of the upper spine to its second stable position. Intermediate protective or shield layers and inner cushion layers are secured to the respective spline members by shouldered pin elements which are readily manually released to enable replacement of any part. The pin elements at the lower spine also enable manual fastening and release of the leg straps.